

# Kelly Bar Habitat Enhancement Project Description

The Forest Service, in coordination with the Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC), is proposing the Kelly Bar Habitat Enhancement Project to enhance off-channel fisheries and riparian habitat on Kelly Bar and across the river from Kelly Bar on the North Fork Salmon River.

## Management Direction

The 1995 Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan, as amended; Klamath National Forest 1995) includes Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan. The Forest Plan provides forest-wide and management (MA) direction for project-level activities. Management areas within the project area are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Management Areas within the Project boundary**

Management Area	Pages in Forest Plan
Riparian Reserve	4-108 to 4-114
Wild and Scenic River	4-76 to 4-79

The interdisciplinary team designed the Kelly Bar Habitat Enhancement Project to be consistent with all applicable law, regulation, policy, and direction. Enhancing these streams would meet Forest Plan Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives by improving both winter and summer refugia and connectivity to side channels.

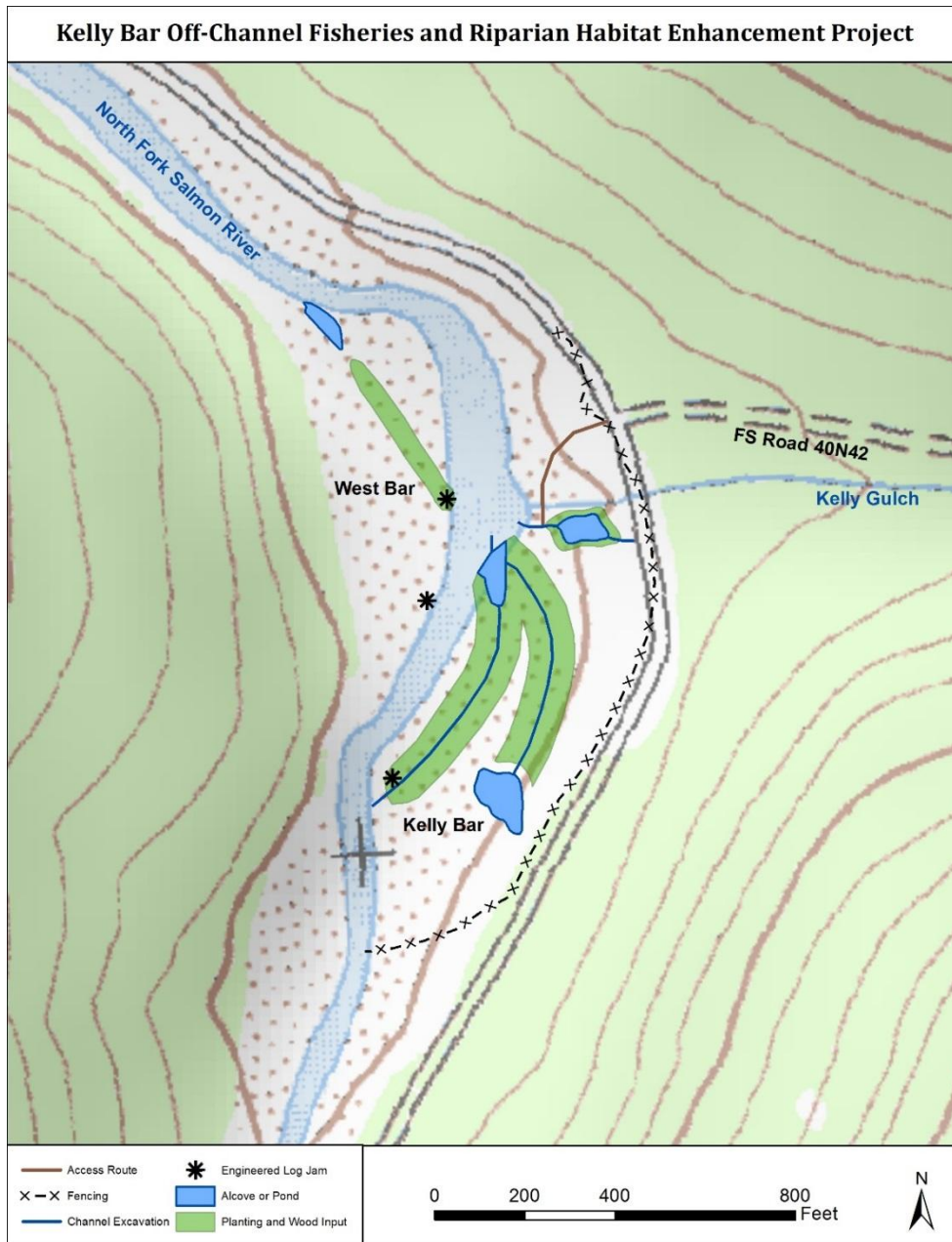
## Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this Project is to increase the abundance of complex off-channel habitat for coho salmon and other salmonids by providing both winter high flow and summer thermal refugia. This Project will address five critical elements of long-term restoration and maintenance of water quality on the Salmon River: 1) access to slow water habitat where migrating smolts can take refuge from the strong hydraulics of the mainstem, increasing winter rearing habitat for juveniles; 2) access to over-summer rearing habitat through pool development 3) providing low gradient, off-channel spawning habitat; 4) restoring riparian vegetation that provides shade and subsequent cooler water temperatures during warm summer/fall months and future large woody debris recruitment; and 5) restoring large woody debris into barren side channels to provide increased cover and rearing habitat for adult and juvenile salmonids.

Due to a combination of factors, including simplification and fragmentation of habitat, coho populations are declining on the Salmon River. In 2008, the SRRC conducted an assessment that evaluated riparian conditions throughout the Salmon River. The assessment identified Kelly Bar as a high priority for restoration of riparian conditions and salmonid habitat. Currently, the project area consists of about 12 acres of mostly barren, large alluvial floodplain with several sparsely vegetated, discontinuous, remnant high-flow side channels and vegetated alluvial terraces. The high-flow side channels are largely dry throughout the summer and fall. Therefore, there is a need to enhance both winter and summer refugia on Kelly Bar, an area known to host coho and that has been identified as having High Intrinsic Potential in the Final SONCC Coho Recovery Plan.

## Proposed Action

Habitat enhancement includes 1) improving connectivity to and enhancing side channels and creating alcoves on Kelly Bar and West Bar (across the river) and 2) enhancing two off-channel ponds on Kelly Bar. Treatments will include excavation of channels, alcoves, and ponds, constructing engineered log jams and small wood habitat features, diverse riparian planting, and cattle fencing. See figure 1 below.



**Figure 1. Map of proposed actions for the Kelly Bar Habitat Enhancement Project**